

Colonel Richard D. “Rick” Leonard

Deputy Commanding General - Support



COL Leonard graduated from The Citadel, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. He later completed a Masters degree in Education from The Citadel and an Educational Specialist Degree from South Carolina State University. His military education includes the Signal Officer Basic and Advance course, the Transportation Officer Advance course, the Engineer Officer Advance course, Civil Affairs course, Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College with a Masters degree in Strategic Studies.

COL Leonard had served in a variety positions in command and staff assignments in the U.S., Central America and Asia. After completing OCS at Fort Benning, GA, COL Leonard was first commissioned in the Signal Corps, and he has served in a variety of units to include 112th Motor Messenger Company; and the 1/263rd Armor Battalion. He was assigned to the 163rd Support Battalion, 218th Heavy Separate Infantry Bde, as the Trans Plans Officer. After completing Command and General Staff College, he was assigned to the 122nd Engineer Battalion, serving as the Battalion S-1, HHC Commander, Battalion S-3 and XO. COL Leonard was the commander for several Task Forces which built schools in Panama and Belize and a road along the California/Mexican border. He was reassigned to the 218th Leadership Regiment, Fort Jackson, SC as the Operations and Training Officer. In 2001 COL Leonard transferred to the 360th CA BDE(A), Ft. Jackson, SC where he deployed in 2002 to Afghanistan as the Director of Personnel for the Coalition Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force in Kabul. COL Leonard then served upon return from this deployment as the G-1 for the 360th CA BDE(A). After graduating from the Army War College in 2007, he assumed command of the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, Greensboro, NC. In 2009 he and his unit arrived at COB Speicher to support the 25th ID and later the 3rd ID in Northern Iraq. His last duty assignment was with the 10th Mountain Division (Light) as the Director for Regional Command-South (Forward) in Kandahar City, Afghanistan, from 2010 to 2011. After 31 years of service, COL Leonard retired from the Army in December 2011 and joined the South Carolina State Guard in 2013.

COL Leonard's awards and decorations include Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Combat Action Badge, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal; Army Reserve Comp Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism; Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Service Ribbon, USAR Components\ Overseas Training Ribbon and NATO Medal.

COL Leonard was inducted into the US Army Officer Candidate School “Hall of Fame” in 2010 at Fort Benning, GA.